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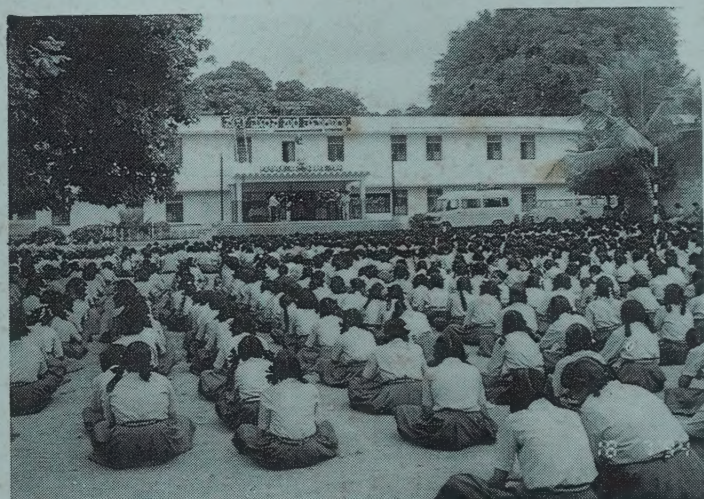
# BOSCO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

1992 - 94

*a souvenir*

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## SCENES FROM THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

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*Photos: K. C. Sebastian*

### BOSCO

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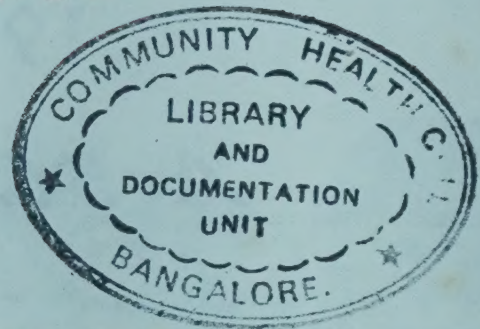
**BOSCO**  
**AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**  
**1992 -94**  
***A SOUVENIR***

**Home Is Where  
The Child Grows Best**



CH 150

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**Community Health Cell**  
*Library and Documentation Unit*  
**BANGALORE**

BOSCO has been working with the street children of Bangalore for over fourteen years.

A question that many people ask is: "How can you effectively tackle this urban tragedy with out reaching the root cause of the problem?"

BOSCO, infact, aims at a two-pronged intervention:

- a) at the level of the youngster on the street
- b) at the level of the community and society.

The Awareness Campaign launched by BOSCO tries to fulfil the second objective.

Indeed, the phenomenon of street children is not the disease, rather, it is the manifestation of a deep-rooted problem that is eating up our very civilization. It has to be stemmed at its roots.

The two-year Campaign just completed gave us much insight into this. It has helped in raising the consciousness among parents, teachers and children - that life on the streets can be most dehumanising and that running away from home is not the best alternative; that parents have a duty to provide the best for their children, inspite of many odds (often not under their control).

Strengthening of our services like Home-placement, Tracing the missing children, Family Counselling, Preventive Cells etc., will definitely bring better results.

The efforts of everyone at BOSCO, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, Mr. Ramesh, Co-ordinator, Awareness Campaign, the Staff, children, village leaders and slum leaders which are seen in this Souvenir may inspire many others to venture out into similar programmes.

Stephen Aloor.





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Thanks to Them!



# *Messages*

*I am glad to know that the BOSCO, Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota, a voluntary service organisation for street children in Bangalore is bringing out a Souvenir to mark the completion of two years of its "Awareness Campaign".*

*I send my greetings and good wishes to all the members of BOSCO for every success in their laudable endeavour.*

**(KHURSHED ALAM KHAN)**

Raj Bhavan

Bangalore

17 - 1 - 95



*I am very glad to learn that Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota (BOSCO) has initiated an innovative project "AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON CYCLES" to create awareness among the citizens about the plight of the children on the streets and check the menace of migration of children from rural areas to urban areas.*

*The children we find on the streets of cities are those either deserted by their parents or who voluntarily run away from their homes. Various factors like poverty, lack of parental love etc., contribute for this despair situation. It is very heartening to note that BOSCO has covered 98 villages 58 slums and 35 schools and has established 69 preventive cells in various villages and slums besides reuniting one thousand children with their families.*

*It is laudable indeed that a private organisation like BOSCO has been endeavouring to the cause of thousands of shelterless children so that their lives blossom into beautiful future.*

*I commend the services of BOSCO, the friend of children/youth on the street which is a source of inspiration for my Government also to take up the cause of the destitute and helpless children.*

*I send my greetings and best wishes for the success of "AWARENESS CAMPAIGN" and hope that the SOUVENIR being brought out on the occasion would come off with valuable write-ups that would be of immense help to the emancipators of the street children.*

**(H. D. DEVE GOWDA)**

*Chief Minister*

**Bangalore**

**17.1.1995**



*I am happy to learn that BOSCO is completing two years of "AWARENESS CAMPAIGN" on the agonizing problems of the street children in Bangalore. It is gratifying to note that awareness of this tragic situation of street children getting into the street for livelihood, is growing in the government circles as well as in the society. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of BOSCO. Much has been done in Bangalore and much remains to be done in favour of the street children in distress. As prevention is better than cure, I am glad that the awareness campaign has served a very good purpose.*

*While congratulating BOSCO for their tireless efforts in favour of the poor children, I pray for God's blessings on their work for the days ahead.*

**ALPHONSUS MATHIAS**

*Archbishop of Bangalore*

Bangalore

23.1.1995



*Dear Fr. Varghese,*

*I am glad to learn that "BOSCO" has completed two years of its Awareness Campaign on cycles. It will have done lot of good by conscientizing parents and children about the hazards of city life and thus stem the inflow in to the urban areas.*

*The work that you, the Salesian Fathers, Brothers and other collaborators, are doing is a modern version of the work that Don Bosco did a century ago in Turin and other cities of Italy. In your task of awareness creation in society, often you will have to expect the unexpected. That, besides keeping you alert, will also fill you with great amount of thrill. There is no doubt that these efforts will go a long way in helping these youngsters to grow up to be decent citizens of our motherland and in making them realise that they too have a beautiful tomorrow.*

*On behalf of the Salesian province of Bangalore I offer you, Fathers, brothers and the lay collaborators my heart-felt thanks and hearty congratulations for this typical Salesian Apostolate on behalf of the child on the street, and I promise my prayers for its success.*

*Yours in Don Bosco*

**FR. THOMAS MYLADOOR, SDB**

*Provincial*

*Bangalore*

*3-5-95*



*Dear Fr. Varghese and company,*

*Just over two years ago Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota explained to Caritas Neerlandica its rationale for starting a campaign intended to create amongst parents and their children an awareness about the plight of street children. Being aware of the fine job BOSCO does when it comes to helping kids that already live on the streets we very much welcomed the ambition to extent the intervention so as to prevent children from becoming street kids in the first place.*

*We know that creating a kind of awareness with sufficient impact to actually change behaviour of kids themselves, their parents, immediate family members and the community at large is easier said than done. However, we did believe in the genuine ambition and implementing capacities of BOSCO staff and therefore lend our financial support to the initiative.*

*From what we understand the effort yielded encouraging results and we commend BOSCO for taking the initiative and making it work.*

**BERT VAN RUITENBEEK**

Caritas Neerlandica

Asia Desk

18-1-95



*The Department of Women and Child Development in Karnataka has been working in close coordination with BOSCO - Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota for quite some time now and BOSCO had, indeed done pioneering work in the field of rehabilitation of the Street Children of Bangalore.*

*The last 12 years of BOSCO have seen this organisation successfully assisting innumerable Street Children to learn to live a life of self-respect and dignity. The contribution of BOSCO shall definitely be remembered by us but chiefly by the little children of our society who have bloomed into self sustaining individuals.*

*I wish BOSCO many more years of success in their chosen field.*

**MALATI DAS**

*Secretary to Government  
Women & Child Dev. Dept.*

Bangalore

20.1.1995

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14032





*BOSCO has been doing yeoman service for the cause of street children. They have been able to create awareness about the plight of the street children among policemen. I am sure the innovative campaign will help the people to understand the plight of the street children. I wish the campaign all the success.*

**R. RAMALINGAM**

*Director General and Inspector General of Police  
Karnataka State*

Bangalore

17.1.1995



# **BOSCO - AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

## **1992 - 1994**

### ***A Summary***

BOSCO is a voluntary organisation working with the children/youth on the streets of Bangalore. It draws its inspiration from Don Bosco a social reformer and educator of abandoned children and youth. It aims to bring about qualitative transformation at two levels: (i) at the level of the child/youth on the street, (ii) at the level of the community and the society at large.

#### **Who are the Street Children?**

A recent survey confirms that there are over 50,000 children eking out a living on the streets of Bangalore. They have no home to call their own. Most have run away due to one reason or other. They live by engaging in ragpicking, coolie, hotel work, etc. The situation of these children/youth is alarming and their number is increasing day by day. BOSCO tries to provide an answer to this grave situation.

#### **What Society thinks of them?**

There is scant awareness among the public about the plight of this vulnerable section of society. They are often regarded as juvenile delinquents on the way to becoming hardened criminals. Hence, they are considered as out casts resulting in inhuman treatment.

#### **Why do they take to the Streets?**

There are many reasons for children to prefer street life to family life.

Many children leave home because of poverty. Some of them work very hard and support their families. But, there are others who leave home due to family disintegration caused by drunkenness of the parents, and infidelity of either of the parents. Some leave home because they do not like to go to school. There are still others, who are attracted by city life and therefore, leave their homes.

Prominent Indian social scientists say that millions of families have migrated to the cities because the rural economy has virtually collapsed. The stories behind each of these children running away would ultimately lead us to the same conclusion.

The city streets do not provide these children with a healthy setting to grow. Rather, it is beset with problems beyond their control. They often



end up on the wrong side of the Law. They are also prone to gangsterism, drug addiction etc.

## **Moving Towards a Solution**

By 1991, BOSCO had already completed a decade of service to the children on the street. The increase inflow of children into the city had become an immediate cause for concern. Therefore, conscientising the parents and children about the hazards of city life was taken up as a priority.

## **Awareness Campaigns on Cycles**

Thus, BOSCO initiated the Awareness Campaigns on Cycles - into the villages and slums. The Awareness campaign consisted of a group of staff and children to reach every village and slum surrounding Bangalore with a message.

## **Plan of Action**

A preliminary study was undertaken with data collected from the BOSCO's own Data Bank. The analysis led us to segregate those 'Taluks' Regions from which large number of children have run away (Refer table No. 1). Simultaneously, pilot campaign was conducted to Anekal Taluk which proved very successful. A two-year programme was charted out. The project proposal forwarded to the funding Agency in Holland was well received.

A single awareness Campaign generally consisted of a two-full-day programme to a particular 'taluk'/slum. As mentioned earlier, the group consisted of staff and street children. The message was conveyed through street plays, songs, speeches, pamphlets, discussions etc. (Refer Table No. 2).

## **Post-Programme Activities**

### **Preventive Cells**

"Prevention is better than cure". With this motto, 69 Preventive Cells were established in villages and slums where the Campaign was held. The Preventive Cells consisted of respected elders, school teachers and other youth interested in the welfare of that particular village.

### **Preventive Cell's duties and Responsibilities**

1. To provide follow-up information about the home-placed children from a particular Area.
2. To organise the local people for similar conscientisation programmes.





From left to right: Fr. K. C. Sebastian  
Fr. Varghese, Mr. Bhaskar I.A.S. DC,  
Fr. Sunny, felicitated by St. Mary's  
School on the Rally day at Tumkur.



Jamagandi and Deepak in action -  
Bagalur slum



Fr. K. D. Varghese giving a  
message to the school children





Yelahanka Rally - Flag off by Circle Inspector, Ramesh Babu.



Rally P  
Commis



Nèlamangala Government School  
Children watching the street play.





Munireddypalya slum people watching the street play.



Devanahalli College Students involved in the street play

nts with Deputy  
Bhaskar, IAS and  
erkman's.







Fr. K. J. Joseph, one of the pioneers of the "Awareness Campaign"



"Awareness Campaign" at Magadi Town

Shivaiah, Gabriel and Jamagandi - proving a point - Nelamangala Rally





3. To maintain information about run away children, school dropouts, family disputes and such other local events.
4. To provide family counselling if necessary.
5. To maintain a local notice board and chronicle which can provide useful information.

Each Preventive Cell meets once in a month in order to discuss the developments at the local level. This group is animated by the Co-ordinator of Awareness Campaign from BOSCO.

A Training Programme was organised for the Cell members on related topics.

### **Positive Outcomes**

1. The awareness Campaign helped in raising the consciousness of the parents and children about the need for a healthy environment for the growth of children.
2. 69 Preventive Cells were established as a link between BOSCO and the villages and slums.
3. It helped towards building a network between BOSCO and the various NGOs already functioning in the villages.
4. It strengthened the services such as Home placement, Tracing the missing and Family counselling.

### **Conclusion**

This novel idea which originated from Shivaiah, one of our staff members during a staff meeting and supported by the then Director and Pioneer of BOSCO, Fr. George Kollashany, now has blossomed into a major programme of BOSCO. We would like to place on record our gratitude to everyone, especially, CARITAS, Neerlandica, the Police Department, Karnataka the village and slum leaders and the people for making it a successful reality.

The Awareness Campaign ultimately helps in empowering the people to solve their own problems. It has been one of the programmes that has enriched us most at BOSCO. We hope to continue this novel venture for the benefit of the society at large.

FR. VARGHESE PALLIPURAM  
*Executive Director*  
BOSCO



**Table No. 1****PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE DATA BANK OF BOSCO\*****Karnataka State**

Sl. No.	Regions	No. of Street Boys with Data Cards
01	Turnkur & Kunigal	80 + 6 = 86
02	Mandya	51
03	Davangere	32
04	Doddaballapur	29
05	Anekal	26
06	Hosur (TN)	26
07	Hassan	44
08	KGF & Kolar	47
09	Kanakapura	30
10	Chitradurga	22
11	Hubli	22
12	Raichur	20
13	Mangalore	20
14	Shimoga	71
15	Bellary	18
16	Channapatna	17
17	Chikkanayakanahalli	16
18	Ramnagar	14
19	Chikkamagalur	14
20	Magadi	13
21	Gulbarga	12
22	Chikkaballapur	12
23	Whitefield	10
24	Gowribidnur	9
25	Dharwad	9
26	Devanahalli	8
27	Hindupur (AP)	7
28	Kollegal	6
29	Tarikere	7
30	Chitamani	8
31	Mysore	121

**Bangalore District****Urban Area**

Sl. No.	Regions	No. of Street Boys with Data Cards
01	Magadi Road (Agrahara & Binny Mill)	73
02	Goripalaya	47
03	K.R. Puram	46
04	K.R. Market	35
05	Banashankari	31
06	Audugodi	26
07	Rajajinagar	25
08	Srirampuram	27
09	Yeswanthpur (Peenya)	41
10	Mysore Road	32
11	Yelahanka, Hebbal & Gagenahalli	24
12	Domlur, Indiranagar	17
13	Majestic	17
14	Viveknagar	18
15	Ulsoor	15
16	Siddapur, JC Road	18
17	Shivajinagar	16
18	Mathikere	14
19	Kamala Nagar	13
20	Vijaynagar	12
21	Srinagar	12
22	New Guddadahalli	11
23	Dasarahalli	20
24	Malleshwaram	10

\* BOSCO begins the follow-up of a child with the basic information entered on to a Data Card. These cards are analysed to find out from which regions more no. of children reach Bangalore.



**Table No. 2****General Table Describing the Awareness Campaign**

Sl. No.	Place and Date	Staff	Boys	No. of Villages/ Slums	No. Of Schools	Total No. of People (Approx.)	Preventive Cells Estd.
1	Magadi (5,6 Jan. 93)	10	15	18 Villages	5	7850	10
2	Doddaballapur (27, 28 Feb. 93)	12	13	17 Villages	2	4280	9
3	Yeshwanthpur (5 Jun. 93)	9	7	9 Slums	Nil	1950	9
4	Munireddy palya (10 Jul. 93)	8	10	7 Slums	2	2600	1
5	Banashankari (3 Sept. 93)	12	13	11 Slums	2	7000	7
6	Srirampura (28 Oct. 93)	13	10	10 Slums	3	7500	7
7	Nelamangala (5,6 Dec. 93)	12	9	14 Villages	5	7000	6
8	Devanahalli (20, 21 Feb. 94)	13	10	16 Villages	6	12000	7
9	Kamakshi Palya (28 Feb. 94)	13	8	10 Slums	6	6000	9
10	Goripalya (28 Jun. 94)	13	8	11 Slums	Nil	8000	10
11	Tumkur (17, 18 Jul. 94)	14	10	17 Villages	7	15000	6
12	Hosur (27, 28 Aug. 94)	12	14	16 Villages	1	11000	4



India is largely an agricultural society where the family is the fundamental unit for almost all activities. Family plays not only the most important role in the upbringing of the children but also in the acquisition of social skills, economically useful skills, values and the sense of security. Children learn through observation of the parents and other elders of the family. This is applicable to all classes of society. It is a well known fact that family plays the most important role in the child's development. However, some children due to a variety of reasons like poverty, alcoholism of parents, family breakdown, exploitation by adults, migration, urbanisation- live on the streets. In India, studies conducted in seven cities - Madras, Bombay, Bangalore, Kanpur, Delhi, Calcutta & Hyderabad have estimated that there are over 4 lakhs street children in these cities. Among them some of them return home after work everyday, some visit home infrequently and a group of them have severed all their ties with their biological family and they are entirely on their own. BOSCO concentrates with the last two groups and especially thrust is given to the last group.

26-12-94

To  
Father Varghese Kootungal  
No. 23, D, 1st Cross, Magadi Road  
BOSCO Yuvakendra, Bangalore

Respected Father,

I am very much thankful to sent back my son Dheenadayalan. He missing last 25 days (5th Dec. onwards) I enclosed herewith a copy of family photo. Again very thankful on behalf my family.

Yours faithfully  
N. Kanniyappan, No.4, Voc Street  
Thiruvankata Nager, Thiruninravur - 602024

### **Impact of street life on children:**

Living and working on the streets deprives the children of their childhood. For the street children, life on the streets exposes them to conditions which are hazardous to the normal growth of a child. They lack love, affection, discipline and role models. They are exposed to bad languages, sexual harassment etc. They lack even basic needs like shelter, education, health care, etc.

### **BOSCO's Home-Placement activity:**

Recognising that a Home is the ideal place for the all round development of a child, Home placement is one of the main activities of BOSCO. 30-40 children are helped to return home every month.



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## TAJUDDIN REUNITED WITH FATHER

*Express news service, Bangalore*

It was a happy reunion for Tajuddin and his father in Bangalore on Monday.

The 11-year-old boy was kidnapped from Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh and forced into begging in Bangalore.

Sheik Khader said he rushed from Nizamabad to 'claim' his son on Monday.

"On Sunday I saw the report about my missing son in the Hyderabad edition of Andhra Prabha (a sister concern of Indian Express publications which published the story on Sunday) and sent a telegram to Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota (BOSCO), and got into a truck which was heading towards Bangalore" said bubbling Sheik, unable to contain his joy.

After losing Tajuddin in June 1991, Sheik, a stone polisher in Kamareddy town, Nizamabad district, filed complaints in Kamareddy, Nizamabad and railway police station in Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

"I spent thousands of rupees in search of Tajuddin. I scouted hundreds of hotels in Hyderabad, hoping to find him. But it was all in vain. I Never thought he was kidnapped," said Sheik, father of two daughters and two sons; with Tajuddin, the youngest.

His eldest daughter, aged 18, who died six months ago is survived by two children. Sheik said Tajuddin's disappearance was a shock to his wife Jeherabi. But efforts to trace Tajuddin proved futile until Hari Shankar, owner of Pabba Jagannath and Bros. Polishing Centre, the shop where Sheik works, saw the newspaper report and showed it to him.

Hari Shankar said last week another young girl was reported missing from a school in Kamareddy, a town with a population of over 2 lakh. He said kidnapping were quite common.

"I will join school again" said a timid yet happy Tajuddin.

"I will be indebted to BOSCO for taking care of my son and enabling me to get him back" said Sheik.

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This is carried out firstly from the street level itself. We contact children as soon as they leave home and reach the street and

talk to them. Secondly, the city centres act as a catalyst for the necessary transition from street life to home. In these centres they experience value of healthy adult contact. Thirdly, providing them vocational training, or studies and appearing in 7th std or 10th std, the children are enabled to go back home with a new identity. Few children are placed in different institutions too. Under this plan when there is no home to go back and for some children it helps to re-experience family life.

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Mysore

11-9-94.

Dear Fr. Palli,

By now the boy Kumar must have come with his relations to get back his companion Manja from Raghavendra hotel near Nelamangla.

Kumar is a very smart boy. We reached his house at about 8.00 O' clock. The mother, grandmother, with whom he was living all these years and his uncle were really happy. The two ladies began to cry seeing the boy. Neither the boy nor the relatives had any complaint against anyone. They look like a very happy family. Kumar was feeling a bit shy to expose himself straight away. But within five minutes he became the boss of the place. He would not like to study. But promises to work well and carry on. He does not mind growing cows. They already have two or three cows.

The people wanted me to stay on there, for a day. The uncle was offering me the Bus charge. I asked him to give that to you when he comes there on 12th. I suggested him to get the boy Manja from Hotel and ask for the salary of both the boys.... The story can go on. Thank you for giving me a chance to enjoy this. All the best

yours lovingly  
K. Jolly

---

During the last 2 years, that is from January '93 to December '94, **we have been able to place 767 children at home. In the year 1993, 365 children and in the year 1994 402 children were placed at home.** Over 300 children have been placed in our own City Centres. As home place-





Dheenadayalan, one of the homeplaced with his family

ment is a priority, all the staff are involved in motivating the children so that they can go back home. At the same time, some of the staff like Fr. Binny, Mrs. Radha Murthy, Bro. Charles, Mr. Deni, Mr. Shivaiah and Sr. Shincy were actively involved in this activity. Last 2 years, often we were taking the children home personally, a staff accompanied the child and placed him/her home. In the year 1993, 55 home visits were done. As we wrote letters, 25 children's family members visited and took the children back home and 6 institutional placements were done. In the year '94, 90 children were taken personally and we have contacted 14 girls, out of which 12 girls were placed back home. Majority of these girls we placed home needed institutional placement for a short period of time. 4 of them (3 girls and a boy)

were placed in a institutions on a long term basis.

In the coming years too, we will continue this activity as our priority activity. In the coming year, we plan to identify some NGO's and hope to involve them in family counselling of the boy whom we place back home.

Similarly the Preventive Cells and the responsible individuals would be involved in the follow-up of this activity. In addition, BOSCO will also take up family counselling in some of these cases.

MS. RADHA MURTHY

*Co-ordinator*

BOSCO - Home Placement



## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

### CELEBRATING

1994 was celebrated as the 'International Year of the Family'. This is a reflection of the growing awareness of the important role of the family both in developed and developing countries. In order to educate the children on the streets on the importance of the family in individual's life and in the society and to educate on the rights of the Child, a week long programme was organised by BOSCO. This programme was organised from 5-12-94 to 11-12-94. Street plays depicting the importance of the family life and on the Rights of the Child were held at Yuvodaya, BOSCO Mane and at Balbhavan. Posters on these themes were displayed in these places. Posters were displayed from 5th onwards at Yuvodaya and on 7-12-94 street play was organised at Yuvodaya and similar programme was held on 9-12-94 at BOSCO Mane. On 11-12-94 at BalBhavan, Cubbon Park, posters were displayed and street plays were enacted. A talk by an advocate was organised. About 150 boys and few families watched the plays at Yuvodaya and BOSCO Mane. About 600 children and few families participated in the function at BalBhavan. From the other organisations, who are working with street children like CWC, KSCCW, St. Luke's, YMCA and children from government organisation i.e., Juvenile Home for Boys, also participated in the programme at Balbhavan. This was a full day function and was a great success.



A short play about 'the Family' in progress



## “CHILD LABOUR DAY RALLY”

30, APRIL 1993

Bangalore Forum for the Street and Working Children organised a Rally on the Child Labour Day, 30 April 1993, to highlight the problem of working children and Street children. BOSCO participated in the Rally with 800 children. The concluding function at the Silver Jubilee Park near K.R. Market was presided over by the Social Welfare Minister, Mr. Dharam Singh. He addressed the rally participants and also announced Government future plans for the Street and working children.

### **Demands put forward to the Government by Children**

1. Stop harassment by the police and instead give protection.
2. Provide better Shelter for working and street children.
3. Provide better working conditions.
4. Prevent health hazards.
5. Concession by way of skill training, loans for self employment etc.,



Child Labour is found in all the developing countries. According to the U.N. Convention more than 100 million children are engaged in employment, often heavy and hazardous. This is in contravention of International Convention which provides for their protection from economic exploitation and from performing work that interferes with their education and harmful to their health and full development.

**From the Bangalore Forum File**



## Reporting from the Streets of Bangalore.

The stories of the 50,000 and over children on the streets of Bangalore are unique and heart rending. They reveal the degree of violence, exploitation, poverty and the very degeneration of our so called precious civilization. Very few of us (why blame the government only) are really aware of the extend of the problem.

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*"My own mother killed my father. But still we live with her (now a prostitute) because we have no other alternative" (Babu and Lakshmi (not real names), from City Railway Station, Bangalore).*

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An analysis of 350 Data Cards of children from the City Railway station, Bangalore, shows that children have run away from homes because of extreme physical punishment by 50% of the parents.

Severe corporal punishment by 15% of school teachers have led to increase in the drop outs from schools (Data Bank, BOSCO).

---

Dayanand, 14 years, working at the Canteen in Railway station, Bangalore, says, his father was murdered by the neighbours in a quarrel. His mother married another man. Dayanand had to leave Home. Now he is on the street for three years. He never wants to return home. He says, "If my mother loved me, she would have waited at least an year before getting married to another man".

---

*"One day I was sleeping in front of a shop in Padarayanapura, Bangalore. As it was very cold, I covered myself with the gunny bag, I was using for rag-picking. A lorry came along and the driver did not notice that somebody was sleeping there. He thought that it was only a gunny bag. The lorry ran over my legs. I was taken to the Government Hospital by the lorry driver and others. But my leg had to be amputated. Earlier, I could live by rag-picking. But now I have no means of earning a livelihood at all".*

Chandra, (alias Annaiah), Padarayanapura, Bangalore.

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*"My mother used to beat me, so I borrowed Rs. 30 from my granny and boarded a bus to Bangalore. Now I work in K. R. Market, selling plantains."*

Muruga - 11 yrs, Bangalore.

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*"My father used to come home drunk and beat my mother and everyone at home. He never gave money to run the family. We had to sleep an empty stomachs most of the days, so I ran away from home"*

Palani - 10 yrs., Bangalore.

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## Rape of 5-yr-old comes to light

*By A Staff Reporter, Times of India.  
Bangalore, July 27, 1994*

A 5-year-old girl was allegedly raped and abandoned in a state of unconsciousness at the city railway station on July 24.

The girl, who is believed to be an orphan was brought to St Martha's hospital by Don Bosco Yuvodaya, a voluntary organisation. The doctors attending on her have said that she might have been sexually assaulted. She is stated to be recovering.

Mr. Syed Abdul, the resident medical officer of the hospital, has lodged a complaint with the Upparpet police. It is not known who raped the girl.

Meanwhile, an incident of a 15-year-old girl having been raped five months ago in a house in Lawyers Road in Frazer Town police limits has come to light.

The girl had kept the incident a secret, as the alleged rapist, Altaf, had threatened her with dire consequences. But it came to light when the girl was found to be pregnant.

The police said the girl had been working in the house for the past eight years and Altaf used to visit a neighbour's house.

*These are some of the incidents collected from our Documentation Centre (NRD-BOSCO) and from the sharing of our Street Educators. Most of them reflect the violence in the family and the resultant running away.*

***Is the Indian family disintegrating?***

RAMESH BABU  
Co-ordinator  
Awareness Campaign





**Staff and Volunteers**

Varghese Pallipuram

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Shivaiah

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Pappaiah

Stephen

Sagaya Raj

Joseph Mathew

Anand

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John Jayaseelan

Brinda

Shanthi

Jayan

Jessy

Kalpana

Mary

Mallika

Pia De Vries (Holland)

Dhan Raj

Shivamallu

Basavaraj

Vara Prasad (YFY)

Rajashekar (Volunteer)

Pushparaj

Edwin

Joseph

Joy

Deni

**Children**

Akbar

Satish T.

Kumar

Ravi

Suresh

Subash

Fiaz

Srinivas

Eshwara

Nayaz

Raju

Manja

Hubli Shankar

Vasu

Raja (Koja)

Ranga (Thainadu)

Ravi B. S.

Gangadhar

Sadik Pasha

Raju

Babu

Dadapeer

Raja

Seena

Kumara

Chandra

Raja

Chandra (Tibet)

Murali

Ravi

Anjan Kmar

Jamagandi

Deepu

Deepak



## Rally to Magadi

On 6th January, 1993, a group of Staff, Volunteers and children assembled very early in the morning in front of BOSCO Yuvodaya at Gandhinagar, Bangalore. We were about to start the second Awareness Campaign Rally. Every Body was busy checking whether their cycles were okay for a two-day ride.

Amidst the hustle and bustle, Mr. Ramesh, the Co-ordinator of the programme, announced that it was useless waiting for the local MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) who had agreed to flag off the Rally. Fr. Devassy Pukkot SDB., instead flagged off the Rally at 8.00 A.M.

The presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director boosted the spirits. This time our destination was to Magadi Town - a clean 60 km ride.

We pedelled from village to village. By noon we had covered 6 to 7 villages. As soon as we entered a village, we parked our cycles under a tree. Then we started to sing a song which would attract children and their parents. They stared at us very curiously. We announced that in few minutes firm then a short drama would be put up at the central place in the village "All are welcome to witness this event and share your opinions". we yelled.

We began the programme with a comedy skit which kept the children roaring with laughter., Slowly, the number increased and in a short time the whole village was there. When the comedy skit was over, we started the main street play which dealt with how a boy took to the streets and what really happened to him on the streets of a city. The drama certainly raised many questions from the on lookers, which led to a serious discussion.

'God bless you for this kind of work', said a lady to me. Chinnamma with tears rolling down her cheeks said, "will you look for my son, Srinivasa, when you reach back Bangalore. He left me two years back... no news about him.....

Our message also reached children in many schools. The rate of drop out in some of them is very high.

We entered a village, Kolderi, which was segregated from other villages. A pedestrian stopped us and asked: "Are you going to that village also?" "Yes we are", we said. "Please don't, They are untouchables \_ they are the descendents of those who ate human flesh". But we were received warmly in that village too.

By the end of the first day we reached Tavarekere. We were given free food and lodging by Mr. Ravikumar and his youth group. Next day we again continued our tedious but rewarding tour. In Magadi town bus stand, an audience of 800-900 gathered to listen to us. We concluded our campaign on 7th evening with lots of happiness in our hearts.

We are sure that our message has not fallen on deaf ears. The youth groups we have come across have promised to co-operate with our follow-up plans.

*By One of the participants in the Rally*







## THANKS TO THEM

Stitching Mensen in Nood/CARITAS Neerlandica

CARITAS INDIA - Mr.Christu Raj (CRO)

Dept. of Women and Child Development,  
Karnataka

Police Department, Karnataka

Mr. Bhaskar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur

Fr. Francis Joseph, Doddaballapur

Parish Priest, Hosur

Mr. Melwin and Co., Devanahalli

Mr. Ravikumar and Party, Tavarakere

Sr. Berkhman's, Tumkur





## SCENES FROM THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN







*thank you!*

STITCHING MENSEN IN NOOD/  
CARITAS NEERLANDICA